

Amendment to the Claims

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A method for transporting a flow of fluid hydrocarbons containing water through a treatment and transportation system including a pipeline, the method comprising:

introducing the flow of fluid hydrocarbons into a reactor, wherein the flow of fluid hydrocarbons contains water;

introducing a cold fluid flow of hydrocarbons, containing particles of gas hydrates acting as a hydrophilic agent, into the reactor where it is mixed with the flow of fluid hydrocarbons containing water;

cooling an effluent flow of hydrocarbons from the reactor in a heat exchanger to ensure that free water present therein attains the form of gas hydrates;

treating the cooled effluent flow in a separator to separate the flow into a first flow and a second flow, wherein the first flow has a content of gas hydrate;

recycling the first flow to the reactor to provide the particles of gas hydrate;

and

conveying the second flow to a pipeline to be transported to a destination.

26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the flow of fluid hydrocarbons containing water is cooled in a first heat exchanger before being introduced into the reactor.

27. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising adding chemicals upstream of the reactor.

28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the flow of fluid hydrocarbons containing water is subjected to a mixing operation before being introduced into the reactor to disperse the water present as droplets in the fluid hydrocarbon phase.

29. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the said second flow from the separator is mixed with wet gas before it is conveyed to the pipeline.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the method is performed at the bottom of the sea.

31. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein an uninsulated pipe is used as the heat exchanger when the surrounding temperature is lower than a hydrate equilibrium temperature for the fluid mixture.

32. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the fluid hydrocarbons are hydrocarbon gas containing water.

33. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising conveying the hydrocarbon flow through a choke which is arranged upstream of the reactor or is a part of the reactor.

34. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the flow from the reactor is conveyed through a first separator to be separated into a hydrocarbon gas flow and a flow which is subsequently subjected to separation into the first flow and the second flow.

35. (New) The method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising adding cooled condensate under pressure to the first flow which is recycled to the reactor.

36. (New) The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising adding chemicals upstream of the reactor.

37. (New) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the flow of fluid hydrocarbons containing water is subjected to a mixing operation before being introduced into the reactor to disperse the water present as droplets in the fluid hydrocarbon phase.

38. (New) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the flow of fluid hydrocarbons containing water is subjected to a mixing operation before being introduced into the reactor to disperse the water present as droplets in the fluid hydrocarbon phase.